

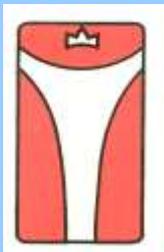


Ascension Acolyte

February 2018

**Sharing
Christ's
Love -
Growing in
Grace!**

Living by
God's grace,
we share the
love of Jesus
with our
neighbors and
grow together
in faith.



**Lutheran
Church of the
Ascension**

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before faxing)

True Love

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave
Himself up for her. – Ephesians 5:25 NIV*

As we continue our journey through 2018 and enter the second month of the year I would like to share my thoughts about a special day that falls on February 14th this year. While dreams of sugar plums may dance through your head at Christmas time I'm guessing that your dreams in February are filled with visions of red, white, and pink as the traditional holiday of Valentine's Day rolls around. The increase in sales of flowers (especially roses), boxes of chocolates and sappy greeting cards tells of a holiday of love just around the corner. Unfortunately (or fortunately, depending on your point of view) this trend is short lived as February 15th falls quickly on the heels of that romantic day.

I understand that we live in a world where love is thrown around like a commodity, and those who search for love often find an empty and unfulfilling substitute in its place. Jesus Himself said that in these last days "the love of most will grow cold." And unfortunately (or fortunately, depending on your point of view) we are in those last days as we wait for the return of Jesus. However, just because the love of most will grow cold doesn't mean we have to follow suit. As children of God we have a responsibility to be leading the charge in bringing true love to the world. Of course, that true love is only found in a relationship with the One who is Love (1 John 4:8).

That's why I want to share my thoughts about the special day of February 14, 2018—Ash Wednesday—the beginning of the Lenten season! This special day that is remembered each year by faithful Christians throughout the world has a lot more to do with true love than the secular holiday of Valentine's Day. As we gather in a special mid-week worship service on Ash Wednesday we have ashes placed on us so that we will recognize our lot in life: Death! But we also look ahead to the end of the 40 days of Lent and recognize our salvation in the cross of Christ which we adore on Good Friday. The entire focus of Lent should be one of sorrow over our sins which nailed Jesus to the cross, covered with the joy of knowing we experience true love from Jesus.

continued.....

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God speaks to us through the words of Paul in Ephesians 5 as he explains that the love found in the marriage relationship of one man and one woman, imperfect though it might be, should reflect the true love that Christ showed for His bride, the Church. "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). As husbands who truly love their wives would gladly die to save them, Jesus willingly died to save His bride. The amazing aspect of Christ's love for us is that He loved us even though we don't deserve it and don't always show Him our love. Now that's True Love!

So whether you make a big deal out of Valentine's Day or not, I hope that you will take the time to begin your Lenten journey in worship on Ash Wednesday (February 14th), experiencing Christ's true love in the precious Sacrament where He freely pours out His lifeblood for you! That's love that will last much longer than a day. In fact, it will never fail, but will be with you every day of your life and into eternity. Now that's True Love!



Pastor Joel



2017 Contribution Statements are available on the table in the narthex. If you have any questions about your statement, please contact Gail Kramer, Financial Secretary.

**If you haven't done so yet, remember to pick up your
2018 Offering Envelopes in the Narthex!**

If you don't find a set of envelopes with your name on it, please see Brenda Larson. Even if you give online, you are issued a box of envelopes because your envelope number corresponds to the online ID.

**Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018
7:00pm Worship**



Staff

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Keyboard/Accompanist

Cindy Lonquist 651-452-9258

Prayer Chain Leader

Kristy Hesser 952-423-3953
ascensionprays4u@ascensionburnsville.org

The **PRAYER CHAIN** is available to everyone. If you have a prayer request for healing... peace...help...thanksgiving...etc., please call Kristy Hesser or use the email address. If you are interested in becoming a link in our chain, please give Kristy a call. New links are always welcome!

Lay Ministers

Dan Dahl	952-894-6651	Don Pitzer *	952-890-2839
Joe Fellerer	952-890-5054	Jim Skille	651-890-3669
Peggy Lausen	952-432-6727	Jan Werner	952-890-0627

* Board Director

Random Angels

Random Angels are quietly at work among us doing household cleaning, visiting shut-ins, and other activities. If you know of someone in the congregation in need of a "Random Angel" or are willing to donate your time to be one, please contact Lorna Pitzer (952-890-2839) or Kristy Hesser (952-423-3953) or put a note in the Random Angels mailbox across from the pastor's office. Volunteers are always contacted to determine if an individual's needs meet their schedules.

The Lenten Meals will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14 from 5:00 to 5:50pm. They are available every Wednesday through Lent. A free-will offering will be collected each week with the proceeds going to the group preparing the meal. A sign up poster will be in the narthex of the church the week of each meal...please sign up for your family so we know roughly how many people to expect.



February 14	Loaves & Fishes	Chili & Fixings
February 21	Bruce & Robin Lillevoid	Sloppy Joes
February 28	Outreach Bd for 360 Communities	Scalloped Potatoes/Ham
March 7	?????	?????
March 14	?????	?????
March 21	?????	?????

If your group or board would like to volunteer to prepare a meal, please sign up in the narthex.

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Ascension's Annual Blood Drive is set for Monday, February 26th, 12:30-6:30pm. Volunteers are needed to donate blood and we also need greeters to welcome donors, and serve refreshments to them. If you are able to donate blood, you can speak with Marlys Groshens or can easily sign up online at givebloodgivelife.org - click on the state of Minnesota, then "click here to find a convenient donation opportunity" and type in zip code 55337 to locate our date for signing up for a time convenient for you. If you are able to help greet or serve refreshments for all or part of the time, please contact Marlys Groshens.



PLEASE SIGN UP FOR FLOWERS in 2018



If you have a special occasion or just out of love for our Lord, and would like to place flowers in the church on a particular Sunday, please sign your name and telephone number by the date you would like to request flowers on the Flower Calendar (outside Pastor Joel's office). You will be contacted before the Sunday you have requested and will be asked at that time if there is a special occasion you would like noted in the bulletin. After worship service, you take the flowers home to enjoy all week... please return the vase. You may place your payment in the offering plate or in the Financial Secretary's drawer located in the library area of the narthex. Make sure it is clearly marked "flowers". Thank you to everyone who placed flowers on the altar in 2017!

Ladies Afternoon Escape *"Painting Class"*

Saturday, February 10th 1-3pm
at the church
\$10 to cover supplies

Join in the food, fellowship and fun while we gab, snack and try our hand at painting (with Q-tips) ! No talent or experience needed. Amy Semenchuk will be leading our painting class. You may have seen some of her artwork on display at the Holiday Festival. The examples above show the flowers-in-a-field picture we will be painting - everyone gets to pick their own color theme. Beverages and munchies are being provided.

Please sign up by February 4th
so we have time to get the supplies.
Friends are welcome!
Payment due at the event.



Afternoon of Games for All Ages **February 18, 1 PM to 5 PM**

Come and join us to play one of your favorite games: Sorry, Sequence, UNO, Quart Wist, Scrabble, Kings Corner, Yahtzee..... All ages are invited to bring your favorite game, make sure and mark it with your name. Bring a snack to share and BYOP (Bring your own pop). Coffee, lemonade, hot chocolate, and hot cider will be provided.

February Birthdays

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Denise Alexander	2/24	Sherry Scattum-Diaz	2/27
Jodi Bauer	2/12	Nan Skille	2/1
Karen Boubel	2/6	Charlotte Smith	2/15
Susan Gibbons	2/17	James Sperial	2/8
Kristy Hesser	2/28	Donna Steging	2/24
Robert Husby	2/25		
Grant Hutchins	2/12		
Warren Johnson	2/9		

Happy Birthday!


If your birthday is in February and it is not listed here, it's because we don't have it in our member records. Please let us know, so we can wish you a happy birthday!



The fiction book selected for the February 19th ABC gathering is "Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk" by Kathleen Rooney. The novel is about an 85 year-old woman, Ms. Boxfish, a fascinating woman who has led a fascinating life. The character (based on real-life ad woman and author, Margaret Fishback), Ms. Boxfish was once the toast of New York. She reminisces about the time she asked her boss to pay her the same as her less accomplished male counterparts. Seeing as though that's a battle still being fought today, you can guess how that went. You will learn more about Lillian's life as a "Mad Woman," and the one she didn't anticipate as a wife and mother. Her story takes a dark turn or two as well, and you will root for her as she responds with her signature wit and mettle. The group meets at 7pm for discussion and everyone is welcome - bring a friend too!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE MONDAY, February 12

You may email your announcement or article for the March *Acolyte* to office@ascensionburnsville.org or write it out and place it in Brenda's drawer in the library area at church.